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BIBLIOGRAPHY—A FORECAST

BY GEORGE WATSON COLE, L.H.D.

THE sale in December, 1919, of the Christie-Miller copy of the 1599 edition of Shakespeare's *Venus and Adonis* for £15,000 called out numerous comments. Much surprise has been expressed at the high prices that have been realized for other rare books. Those familiar with the records of book auctions during the past twenty or thirty years are well aware that the price of rare books has been steadily mounting, and that those sold, for what were at the time considered high prices, would if now placed in the market bring very much more.

The question is naturally asked, Why do these books bring such amazingly high prices? It may be said, to begin with, that the increasingly high prices realized on many rare books that have come into the market during the last decade or two are largely due to the character of the books themselves. A number of wealthy collectors have been attracted by them, and not without cause, for never, in the history of bookselling, has such a large number of superlatively rare books been offered for sale within such a limited period.

As long as a book continues to be privately owned, there is a possibility that it may again come into the market. But it is a well-known fact that rare books have a tendency to find their way into public institutions. Once there, they are permanently removed from the

market. Every book so locked up reduces the number of those that can again be offered for sale. Consequently this fact, when known, creates a desire on the part of any collector who knows of it to secure a copy. The law of supply and demand comes in and hence the ever increasing prices that are realized.

In the case of the *Venus and Adonis* just mentioned, though it was but the Fourth Edition, it was the only copy known of the earliest edition still remaining in private hands. Its appearance, therefore, presented the only possible opportunity that a private collector could ever have of adding it to his collection. Is it then at all surprising that in a competition between two gentlemen possessing the finest collections of Shakespeare's works in the world, outside of the British Museum, a battle royal took place for its possession? And what more could be desired than that this same rarity should find a place on the shelves of a library in this country where it can at any time be consulted by a student of Shakespeare?

These high prices are not an unmixed evil. They stimulate owners to search their libraries and place their rare books in the market in order that they may profit by these high prices. The recent Mostyn, Christie-Miller, and Newdigate-Newdegate sales, to name but a few, no doubt owe their origin to this cause.

High prices are inevitable where wealthy collectors compete for the possession of rarities, especially where most of the known copies have already found their way into public collections. The Henry E. Huntington

Library, as is now well known, is no longer a private collection, and the rarities absorbed by it will never again come into the market. Mr. Huntington is still actively engaged in rounding out and strengthening it and will doubtless continue to interest himself in its growth in the future as in the past.

That high prices are not entirely due to his competition is shown by the fact that at the Huntington duplicate sales, from which Mr. Huntington himself was removed as a competitor, surprisingly high figures were uniformly maintained. This was no doubt due to the high character and extreme rarity of the items offered, many of which then appeared at public sale for the first time.

Another important fact should not be overlooked. The rush of owners to place their collections in the market and take advantage of the prevailing high prices now being realized is bringing to light not only copies of acknowledged rarity, but is even revealing many whose very existence has in some cases been questioned; while, in not a few instances, those have appeared that heretofore have been absolutely unknown to bibliographers.

A few of these cases are so striking and are of such importance in literary history that we may be pardoned in calling attention to one or two.

In the Christie-Miller sale advertised to take place November 28, 1919, but postponed until the following month, occurred a copy of Robert Greene's *A Quip for an Upstart Courtier* (no. 50), the earliest of the three editions

known to have been printed in 1592. This work was published posthumously and, as originally printed, contained a scurrilous attack upon Gabriel Harvey and his two brothers. In the later editions this attack was suppressed, the only part retained being a reference to the father of the Harveys whose calling was that of a rope-maker. This allusion to the calling of the father (as modified) naturally seemed to writers on the controversy as wholly inadequate to account for the vitriolic bitterness displayed by Gabriel Harvey and his brothers in the progress of the controversy, there being nothing about the calling of a rope-maker to merit such a revengeful attitude.

All writers on the subject have therefore thought that there must have been something more than this mere innuendo to account for the bitterness excited in the mind of Gabriel Harvey and to have caused him to open the vials of his wrath and vilify the memory of Robert Greene, then dead, and of Thomas Nash, his defender. What are we to think of one, no matter what the provocation, who vents himself in the following sonnet which Gabriel Harvey included in his *Foure Letters and Certaine Sonnets*, 1592, where he says:

> Come fellow Greene, come to thy gaping graue:
> Bidd Vanity, and Foolery farewell:
> Thou ouer-long haſt plaid the madbrain'd knaue:
> And ouer-lowd haſt rung the bawdy bell.
> Vermine to Vermine muſt repaire at laſt:
> No fitter houſe for buſy folke to dwell:
> Thy Conny-catching Pageants are paſt:

Some other mu/t tho/e arrant Stories tell.
The/e hungry wormes thinke long for their repa/t:
Come on: I pardon thy offence to me:
It was thy liuing: be no /o agha/t:
A Foole, and Phi/ition may agree.
And for my Brothers, neuer vex thy /elfe:
Thy are not to di/ea/e a buried Elfe.

How unlike this is William Basse's sonnet on the death of Shakespeare:

On Mr. William Shake/peare

Renowned Spencer lie a thought more nigh
To learned Beaumont, and rare Beaumont ly
A little nearer Chaucer, to make rome
For Shake/peare in your threfold, fourfold tombe.
To lodge all fouer in one bed make a /hifte
Until Domes day, for heardly will (a) fifte
Betwixt this day and that by fate bee /laine,
For whom the curtains /hal bee drawne againe.
But if Precedencie in death doe barre
A fourth place in your /acred Sepulcher,
In this uncarved marble of thy owne,
Sleepe, brave Tragedian, Shake/peare, /leepe alone;
Thy unmole/ted re/t, un/hared cave,
Po//e//e as lord, not tenant, to thy grave,
That unto others it may counted bee
Honour hereafter to bee layed by thee.

So completely had the original edition of Greene's *Quip for an Upstart Courtier* dropped out of sight that all writers on this controversy in their attempts to discover the cause of Harvey's animosity settled upon a short passage where Harvey's father had been described

as a rope-maker. The copy which has now come to light formerly belonged to Richard Heber and was sold in the first sale of his library (no. 3132) in 1834 for £1 15*s*. It, together with many other of Heber's treasures, was bought by Mr. Christie-Miller and its location lost sight of. Only upon its reappearance at the recent sale has its importance as a piece of contemporary literary evidence been fully realized.

The *Quip for an Upstart Courtier*, the occasion of Harvey's outburst of spleen, though the fact was unknown to him, has since been found to be plagiarized from a much older work by Francis Thynne, entitled *The Debate betweene Pride and Lowlines*. This was published about 1570 and the only known copy of it, formerly in the Bridgewater House Library, is now in the Huntington Library. The *Quip* takes the form of a dispute between a courtier (Velvet-Breeches) and a tradesman (Cloth-Breeches) as to which of them is entitled to the greater respect. It is determined to leave the final decision to a jury. As the dispute takes place in a highway, wayfarers, as they approach, are halted to form the panel from which the jury is selected. People representing many callings as they approach are accosted and examined as to their qualifications to serve on this jury. Among them is a rope-maker. This gives Greene an opportunity to reflect upon the calling of the father of the Harveys and upon his three sons, which he does, as follows:

I both wondred and laught to heare Clothbreeches make this di*f*cour*f*e, when I *f*aw two in the vallye together by the eares, the one

in leather, the other as blacke as the Deuill: I ſtept to them to part the fraie, and queſtioned what they were, and wherefore they brawled: Marry quoth hee, that lookt like Lucifer, though I am blacke, I am not the Deuill, but indeed a Colyer of Croyden, and one ſir that haue ſolde many a man a falſe ſacke of coales, that booth wanted meaſure, and was halfe full of duſt and droſſe. Indeed I haue beene a Lieger in my time in London, and haue played many madde pranckes, for which cauſe, you may apparantly ſee I am made a curtall, for the Pillory (in the ſight of a great many good and ſufficient witneſſes,) hath eaten off booth my eares, and now ſir this Ropemaker hunteth me heere with his halters, I geſſe him to be ſome euill ſpirite, that in the likeneſſe of a manne, would ſince I haue paſt the Pillory, perſwade me to hange myſelfe for my olde offenſes, and therefore ſith I cannot bleſſe me from him with *Nomine patris*, I lay *spiritus Sanctus* about his ſhoulders with a good crabe tree cudgell, that hee may get out of my company. The Ropemaker replied, that honeſtly iourneying by the way, hee acquainted himſelfe with the Collyer, and for no other cauſe pretended. Honeſt with the Deuill, quoth the Colliar, how can he be honeſt, whoſe mother I geſſe was a witch, for I haue herde them ſay, that witches ſay their praiers backeward, and ſo dooth the Ropemaker yearne his liuing by going backward, and the knaues cheefe liuing is by making fatall inſtrumentes, as halters and ropes, which diuers deſperat men hang themſelues with Well quoth I, what ſay you to theſe, ſhall they be on the Jurie? Veluet breeches ſaid nothing, but Cloth bréeches ſaid, in the Ropemaker he found no great falſehood in him, therefore hee was willing hee ſhould be one, but for the Coliyer, hee thought it neceſſary, that as he came ſo he ſhould depart, ſo then I had the Ropemaker ſtand by till more came, which was not longe.

The rope-maker's response, as here given, is wholly unlike that in the First Edition, which reads as follows:

The ropemaker replied, that honeſtly iourneyeng by the way, he acquainted himſelfe with the Colliar, & for no other cauſe pretended.

And whether are you a going qd. I? Marry ſir qd. he, firſt to abſolue your question, I dwel in Saffron Waldon, and am going to Cambridge to three ſons that I keep there at ſchoole, ſuch apt children ſir as few women haue groned for, and yet they haue ill lucke. The one ſir [Richard Harvey] is a Deuine to comfort my ſoule, & he indeed though he be a vaine glorious aſſe, as diuers youths of his age bee, is well giuen to the ſhew of the world, and writte a late the lambe of God, and yet his pariſhioners ſay he is the limb of the deuill, and kiſſeth their wiues with holy kiſſes, but they had rather he ſhould keep his lips for madge his mare. The ſecond ſir [John Harvey] is a Phyſitian or a foole, but indeed a phyſitian, & had proued a proper man if he had not ſpoiled himſelfe with his Aſtrological diſcourſe of the terrible coniunction of Saturne and Jupiter. For the eldeſt [Gabriel Harvey] he is a Ciuilian, a wondrous witted fellow, ſir reuerence ſir, he is a Doctor, and as Tubalcain was the firſt inuenter of Muſick, ſo he Gods beniſon light vpon him, was the firſt that inuented Engliſhe Hexamiter: but ſee how in theſe daies learning is little eſteemed, for that and other familiar letters and proper treatiſes he was orderly clapt in the Fleet, but ſir a Hawk and a Kite may bring forth a coyſtrell, and honeſt parents may haue bad children. Honeſt with the deuil qd. the Colliar, [etc.].

The discovery of this copy of the unexpurgated edition now for the first time brings to light the real cause of the bitterness and vituperation of Harvey against the character of Greene. Critics and literary scholars have been misled from reading the later editions into believing that Harvey took umbrage because he and his two brothers were called the sons of a rope-maker. The original passage (also reproduced in facsimile in the Britwell-Court sale catalogue) shows that the Harveys had a real cause of grievance and that their family had been held up to contempt.

This discovery of a long-lost edition of a well-known work reminds us of the discovery of another whose very existence had been hitherto unsuspected. The Newdigate-Newdegate collection was advertised to be sold at Sotheby's, January 22, 1920, but previous to that date was sold *en-bloc* to the late George D. Smith. In this sale appeared a copy of Robert Greene's *Pandosto; The Triumph of Time*, 1595. Bibliographies of English literature give the dates of many non-existent editions which have crept into them by mistake. The discovery of editions hitherto unknown is of less frequent occurrence. This was just what happened in the latter case. Early editions of this work, from which Shakespeare borrowed the plot of *The Winter's Tale*, are by no means of frequent occurrence. Of the First Edition (1588) there is only an imperfect copy in the British Museum; while of the Second Edition (1592) the only copy at present known is in the Library of Mr. William Augustus White, of Brooklyn. Then comes the Third Edition (1595), the Newdigate-Newdegate copy hitherto unrecorded, which has come to this country and found a resting-place in the Huntington Library.

Pandosto was a popular romance and ran through nine editions. Its title was then changed to *The Pleasant Historie of Dorastus and Fawnia*, under which name it appeared some fifteen times or more.

Such new discoveries, together with the fact that so many rare books are being brought to this country, raises

some very interesting questions regarding the present status of the records of English literature. The bibliographies of the past when critically examined are found to be far from satisfactory. The information they impart is of varying degrees of fullness and reliability. Those compiled in the past contain information gathered from many sources, much of it copied from previous works of a similar kind and not, to any great extent, from the books themselves. In the early bibliographies the information given is scanty as regards titles and descriptions, and on investigation it is too often found unsatisfactory. Frequently they serve only as hints that such and such books exist, and that fuller information should be sought for elsewhere. These old bibliographies are valuable in a way, but modern requirements call for fuller information derived from the books themselves.

The term "scientific bibliography" has been suggested as a proper one to be applied to modern bibliographical methods as distinguished from those of the past. The question naturally arises, Is the term "scientific" a proper one to use in this connection? The word "scientific," as defined by the *Century Dictionary*, is "concerned with the acquisition of accurate and systematic knowledge of principles by observation and deduction: as scientific investigation." If it be true that the knowledge acquired by bibliographers is based upon observation and that deductions are made from such observation, and, furthermore, that this all leads to a more accurate and systematic knowledge of books, the term "scientific bibliography"

would seem to be properly applied to work in this field of research.

The term "anatomical bibliography" has also been suggested as a proper one to apply to the work of the bibliographer as at present carried on. May not this expression also be properly applied to such work? This term, we also think, may with propriety be applied to the work of the modern bibliographer. For, not being satisfied to consider a book as an entity, he anatomizes or examines it minutely, and considers it point by point in order to discover the relations that each part bears to the whole. For a book, as is well known, is made up of separate sheets, each of which bears an important relation to the whole.

Bibliography, itself, has been defined to be a science that treats of books, their materials, authors, typography, editions, dates, subjects, classifications, history, etc.

The writer has made a somewhat critical study of the books of the Elizabethan and Jacobean printers, not only of single copies, but, in numerous cases, of several copies of the same book. In this work he has found it of the utmost importance to examine and compare them not only sheet by sheet, but leaf by leaf. The structural parts of the book have therefore been critically examined. As a result he has come to feel that there is such a thing as anatomical bibliography, and that no satisfactory study of books can be carried on which does not take into careful consideration the relations of their different parts. Only by keeping this feature firmly in mind

and applying it can we arrive at a thorough and scientific study of bibliography. Little, so far as we have observed, has been written upon this phase of the work.

It is evident, then, that the materials that go into the composition of a book and the processes employed in transferring a manuscript into a finished and marketable book should each be considered in its natural order. These are: (1) paper and paper-making; (2) types, typesetting, and printing; and (3) binding and binders.

The bibliography of the past was to a great extent a work of paste-pot and scissors, of inkhorn and goose-quill. That phase has had its day, and a new era has arisen. The old style of bibliography was not without its value. To it the bibliographer of today owes an infinite debt of gratitude, for the records thus prepared serve as a foundation upon which to construct better work. Like all work based upon the compilations of one's predecessors, it copied both good and bad. While in the main it is good, it lacks the accuracy and authority required at the present day, which insists upon a full and unerring description based upon an actual examination of a book, and, whenever possible, upon a comparison of several copies.

The importance of such a comparison, when it can be made, is strikingly shown by the following example. The Hoe copy of Goodall's *Poems and Translations*, London, 1689 (sale catalogue, 2:1474), on examination was found to contain four leaves in the first sheet or half-sheet and appeared to be perfect. These leaves consisted of a title-page and three leaves containing "The Table" of contents.

From all appearances, when seen alone, this copy seemed absolutely perfect. On comparing it with another, the Chew copy, the latter was found to contain eight preliminary leaves instead of four. The four additional leaves, not in the Hoe copy, were found to contain the license, two leaves of dedication, and a leaf of errata. As the leaves in the Hoe copy bore no signature-marks and the printed matter was complete as far as it went, no suspicion of lacking leaves was aroused. The dedicatory leaves of the Chew copy had two signature-marks, A3 and A4. An examination of the paper in the Chew copy disclosed the fact that the eight preliminary leaves were printed on a single sheet with portions of the watermark on the first, fourth, fifth, and eighth leaves. At the end of the Table is the catchword "ERRA-" over which, in the Hoe copy, a slip of paper had been neatly pasted. A portion of a watermark also appears on the first leaf of the Table in the Hoe copy. A perfect copy of this book therefore contains the following leaves:

1 license
1 title-page
1 dedication to the Countess of Clarendon
1 dedication to Mr. Roderick (in verse)
3 "The Table"
1 Errata verso

Total: 8 leaves.

Only by such a critical method can the errors that have crept into the old bibliographies and which have

been handed on by more recent writers be eliminated. Only by such a method can bibliography be built up on a scientific basis.

Records made after a thorough examination of the book itself may be termed "descriptive bibliography." The records of books contained in the old bibliographies may be defined according to the fulness of the information or lack of it, which they give. Where author, full title, size, number of volumes, place, printer, dáte, and signature-marks are given, the book may be said to be *described*. If only author, title, place, and date are given, it may be said to be *recorded*. If all that is given reads, for instance, "another edition, 1662," it is merely *noted*.

In referring to catalogues and bibliographies, it is much to be desired that the character or amount of information given concerning a book should be differentiated by the use of some such or similar terms. If this were systematically done, the expressions, "Hazlitt *describes* a copy," "Lowndes *records* a copy," or "Herbert *notes* a copy," would at once indicate the amount and character of the information to be expected when the reference is looked up.

The modern bibliographer is no more content to base his statements on a superficial examination of a book than the medical man is to base his upon a hasty inspection of his patient. The latter tests, probes, and amputates if need be. Sir William Osler himself would no more have thought of practicing medicine without a thorough knowledge of the science of anatomy in all its branches than the

present-day bibliographer would of following his profession without a theoretical and practical knowledge of the component parts of a book and their relation to each other.

The modern bibliographer may properly be called the anatomist of the book. If he would be successful in his vocation he must be thoroughly familiar with all that is to be known about the paper on which a book is printed, its quality, method of manufacture, and through what processes it goes in order to become a part of a book. He must similarly be acquainted with the methods employed by the printer in turning a manuscript into a printed book. He must understand the art of printing and be able to detect in every instance the points in which the printer has mistaken the ideas of the author (in so far as typographical essentials are concerned, and in a lesser degree the changes involved in textual matters). And, no less important, he must be able to detect the places where the binder has mistaken the order in which the printer intended the various parts of the book to be bound.

The bibliographer of the present day, therefore, has ceased to consider a book as an entity, and, instead, regards it as a series of fragments or parts combined or assembled by the binder, sometimes as the printer intended it to be put together and sometimes not.

The modern bibliographer, therefore, is not and cannot be satisfied with the examination of a single copy of a book, especially if it seems to contain any abnormal or

unnatural features. His object primarily is to describe a perfect copy. In the various vicissitudes through which old books have come down to us they have often undergone many and varied changes, and, in many cases, it is with difficulty that a copy can be found that is in its original binding or is still in its pristine condition. It may even be made up of parts of two or more editions, and it is incumbent on the bibliographer to determine from which editions they have been taken. The indignities which book-collectors and binders have perpetrated on some copies of books would make an interesting and long story.

Hence, modern bibliography becomes comparative as well as anatomical, and the analogy between it and medicine, that has just been made, becomes still closer, for we have not only to consider bibliography anatomically, but comparatively. A book should not only be considered by itself, but the processes of the author, copyists, compositors, pressmen, and binders of different periods, to say nothing of the jugglings of book-sellers and collectors in their endeavor to perfect copies, should all be taken into account. The methods of the past are no longer a criterion by which to judge those of the present day.

In the remarks which follow an attempt will be made to give the reasons and to show why bibliography has at last come to stand upon a scientific basis.

1. We have first bibliographies which give abundant titles, but are weak in descriptions. They often merely

give dates. Such entries are simply *notes* which the compilers never had the time, opportunity, or inclination to expand. A characteristic example of this class of bibliographies is to be found in Watt's *Bibliotheca Britannica*, published in 1824.

2. The next class of bibliographies is of a mixed nature the best feature of which consists of full and exact descriptions made by their compilers from the books themselves. To these, however, are often added information derived from the owners of the books and that gleaned from previous publications covering the same field. Confining ourselves to bibliography of English literature, such are Ames and Herbert's *Typographical Antiquities* and Hazlitt's *Hand-Book* and his series of *Bibliographical Collections and Notes*, extending from 1876 to 1903.

3. We come lastly to bibliographies covering a more limited field, the best examples of which, perhaps, are to be found in those prepared by Thomas J. Wise in which the bibliographical history of each work is fully given.

We believe the time has come for a change in bibliographical methods. It would be folly, were it possible, to discard what has already been done. It represents too much research and labor and is too valuable in suggestions to be dispensed with. The work of the future must consist more and more in collecting, classifying, and digesting the mass of information to be found in the bibliographies of the past, and in the location, if possible, of copies of every edition through which any given work

has passed. This, so far as we are aware, has not, as yet, been systematically done.

It is never safe to accept uncorroborated statements made in any bibliography. Check-lists ought to be prepared and sent out broadcast for the purpose of locating copies of editions about which information is desired. When this is once thoroughly done, questionable details can be settled by the use of photóstat copies. In the Huntington Library this method is being tried and the *Check-List* that has been issued is intended as a step in this direction.

We recently worked out from the best information we possessed the bibliographical history of two works, *Pandosto* and *A Quip for an Upstart Courtier*. The discovery of the Newdigate and Britwell copies, therefore, came to us as a not unwelcome surprise, as it enabled us to take one more step toward completing the bibliographical history of those two works. Now that these copies have been added to our collection we shall be able more satisfactorily to complete our records.

So I believe the work of "comparative bibliography" is that which we must now take up in order that old ghosts may be laid and that our stock of information may be greatly increased by new discoveries.

Our friends of the English Bibliographical Society have in hand a work exactly in this line, the compilation of a short-title list of all works by English authors, printed in England or abroad before 1640, giving the location of a copy of every title recorded. It is estimated that this

work will take three or more years to complete and that it will comprise about 30,000 titles. The *Check-List* of the Huntington Library it is hoped will be of some slight service in enabling the Society to trace a considerable number of unique copies in this country. A similar work ought to be undertaken here so that we may learn definitely what was done by the early presses in our own country, and where copies of each work can be found.

When this preliminary field work is completed, then will come the work of tabulation and recording. This work lies before us, and at no time in the world's history could it be taken up with more surety of success.

The photostat, invented and perfected within the past decade, has provided an inexpensive medium of reproduction. By its use we are virtually enabled to place side by side copies scattered from one end of the earth to the other. By its means we are able to compare different copies and compel them to yield up their secrets as effectively as if they were under our very eyes. With these aids questions as to editions, issues, title-pages, use of old sheets, etc., can be for once and for all settled and information imparted to the scholar or textual critic which will enable him to perform his work more easily and with greater certainty. Numerous instances might be cited in which we have been enabled by the photostat to thus settle questions which could not have been solved in any other way.

SIR WILLIAM OSLER

BY LEONARD L. MACKALL

IT seems peculiarly appropriate that this Society should take its action on the death of Dr. Osler, in the Hotel Chelsea, since he always stayed here on his many visits to Atlantic City. Few knew it at the time, for he used to register under an assumed name, usually that of some old medical worthy, which enabled him to enjoy the necessary rest and relaxation for which he had come and yet was identification enough to his best friends, who were merely amused by his various ingenious aliases.

Once at the New York Academy of Medicine a librarian asked him to write his name in the register, and was later much surprised to find instead "Miss Persimmons" written in the well-known hand![1]

Some fantastically wonderful quasi-medical letters signed "Egerton Y. Davis, Jr.," in various journals, were really written by Dr. Osler, who greatly enjoyed the consequent mystification of readers lacking in a sense of humor—especially as a really authentic, though scarcely less extraordinary narrative, published seriously under his own name, was to his surprise regarded as a mere hoax.[2] His sense of humor was always active, and he often indulged in playful, practical jokes.

[1] Cf. *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*, July, 1919, p. 6.

[2] *Canada Medical and Surgical Journal*, XVI (1888), 377, 734; XVII, 557; *New York Medical Journal*, XLVII, 332, 412; *Medical Record*, XXXIII, 97; cf. *Literary Digest*, January 17, 1920, p. 50.

All this almost boyish fooling in word and deed was amusing, but certainly harmless. I have dwelt on it here because unfortunately Dr. Osler's name is still associated in the minds of the general public with various most absurd things which the newspapers said that he said in his whimsical farewell, a really sad instance of irresponsible misrepresentation of a great and good man. What he really said (I heard him myself) on that particular subject, while expressed in his most characteristic style, was neither radical nor new, though it is supposed to have suggested to Andrew Carnegie the idea of his pensions for retiring professors.

I cannot now do better than quote his own comment, written a year later:

"To interpose a little case," to relieve a situation of singular sadness in parting from dear colleagues of the Johns Hopkins University, I jokingly suggested for the relief of a senile professoriate an extension of Anthony Trollope's plan mentioned in his novel, *The Fixed Period*. To one who had all his life been devoted to old men, it was not a little distressing to be placarded in a world-wide way as their sworn enemy, and to every man over sixty whose spirit I may have thus unwittingly bruised I tender my heartfelt regrets.[1]

[1] Preface written for the second edition with three additional addresses of *Aequanimitas*, etc., London and Philadelphia, 1906. The address here called "The Fixed Period" is printed in full in this edition (and later impressions; also in *Journal of the American Medical Association*, March 4, 1905); cf., e.g., p. 399: "In that charming novel, *The Fixed Period*, Anthony Trollope discusses the practical advantages in modern life of a return to this ancient usage, and the plot hinges upon the admirable scheme of a college into which at sixty [67] men retired for a year of contemplation before a peaceful departure by chloroform," and p. 400: "Whether Anthony Trollope's

The newspapers carefully omitted all reference to Trollope; and, as to much else which they chose to ascribe to Dr. Osler, they might with equal justice have attacked Goethe, Schopenhauer, Helvetius, Byron,[1] and many others besides those referred to in Dr. Osler's address. In a later farewell address he said:

It may be that in the hurry and bustle of a busy life I have given offence to some—who can avoid it? Unwittingly I may have

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suggestion of a college and chloroform should be carried out or not I have become a little dubious, as my own time is getting so short"—which shows clearly enough that he was not taking Trollope's suggestion too seriously!

Trollope's book is now rare, even in libraries, but it is still in print in the Tauchnitz Collection, and I find that it originally appeared *anonymously* in *Blackwood's Magazine*, October, 1881—March, 1882; cf., e.g., CXXX, 419: "It was at last decided [by the Assembly of the Republic of Britannula, an imaginary island in the Pacific, where the scene is laid] that men and women should be brought into the college at sixty-seven, and that before their sixty-eighth birthday they should have departed"; and p. 424: "It had at last been decided that certain veins should be opened while the departing one should, under the influence of morphine, be gently entranced within a warm bath."

[1] Goethe, *Faust*, Part II, Act II, ll. 6785–89, Baccalaureus: "Gewiss! das Alter ist ein kaltes Fieber / Im Frost von grillenhafter Noth./ Hat einer dreissig Jahr vorüber, / So ist er schon so gut wie todt./ Am besten wär's, euch zeitig todtzuschlagen"—written probably when Goethe was an old man himself! Helvetius, *De l'esprit*, III, 8 (*Œuvres*, 1818, I, 289), approved by Schopenhauer, *Welt als Wille*, 3d ed., Vol. II, chap. vii, amplifying his letter to Goethe, June 23, 1818 (*Goethe-Jahrbuch*, 1888, p. 72): ". . . . bin der Meinung, dass Helvetius Recht hat zu sagen, dass bis zum 30sten höchstens 35sten Jahre im Menschen durch den Eindruck der Welt alle Gedanken erregt sind, deren er fähig ist, u. alles was er später liefert, immer nur die Entwickelungen jener Gedanken sind." Byron: "No man ought to live after thirty, when enjoyment ceases" (George Finlay's "Reminiscences," appended to the new edition, 1825, of Stanhope's *Greece*, p. 506).

shot an arrow o'er the house and hurt a brother—if so, I am sorry, and I ask his pardon. So far as I can read my heart I leave you in charity with all.[1]

This was indeed the literal truth. This real charity or brotherly love found expression in countless acts always done quietly. Though a most busy man, eagerly consulted by patients from all over the country, a relatively large proportion of his practice was financially unremunerative. He is said to have traveled all the way to California in order to treat a patient free; and it is a fact that he "took out of Baltimore not one cent of all the fees—none of which came from hospital patients—he received in the sixteen years of his work" there.

No one was more constantly anxious to help actively every really good cause. Such unceasing, unselfish activity, such great ability, such rare personal charm, naturally made an unusually deep and lasting impression.

Seldom surely has a living man received a finer tribute than the unsentimental yet eloquent personal articles in the special Osler number[2] of the *Johns Hopkins Hospital Bulletin*, issued for his seventieth and last birthday. Professor Gildersleeve, dean of American philologists, at eighty-eight, contributed some charming verses, ending:

> His winged words straight to their quarry go.
> All hearts are holden by his meshes yet.

A more elaborate and more general tribute, intended for the same birthday (though unfortunately delayed for

[1] *Aequanimitas*, 2d ed., p. 464.

[2] July, 1919, reprinted in book form, 1920.

months[1] by printers' strikes, etc.), are the two handsome volumes of *Contributions to Medical and Scientific Research*, consisting of some 150 papers by as many pupils and co-workers in the United States and Canada.

Dr. Osler's constant anxiety to aid even strangers in any serious scientific work was well illustrated by his cordial welcome to Dr. Crous, the young representative of the Prussian Commission on a General Catalogue of Incunabula, whose second paper before the Bibliographical Society (London) states that it was mainly Dr. Osler's kindness and notes of introduction which gave him access to the incunabula in England.[2] This reminds me to add that when during the war almost everyone in Germany was obsessed with a fantastically wild hatred of everything English, Dr. Osler's German colleagues Ewald (Berlin, now dead) and von Müller (Munich) remembered him with affection; and the latter has written a sympathetic notice on learning of his death.[3] Similarly, though his own only child was killed in the war, he was among the first to come to the aid of the really suffering children of Austria.

[1] But Volume I and a dummy containing part of Volume II were formally presented in the Hall of the Royal Society of Medicine, London, July 11, 1919. Sir William's very striking reply is printed in the *British Medical Journal*, July 19, 1919; also in the *Annals of Medical History*, New York, Vol. II, No. 2.

[2] *Transactions of the Bibliographical Society*, XII, 182–87 (London, 1914); cf. pp. 87–99, and Sir William's paper, "The Proposed General Catalogue of Incunabula," read before the Medical Library Association at Washington, May, 1913, published in its *Bulletin*, April, 1914.

[3] *Münchener medizinische Wochenschrift*, February 27, 1920.

His only child, Edward Revere Osler, was mortally wounded in action near Ypres, as lieutenant of artillery, on September 2, 1917, not yet twenty-one years old, after serving with great credit for a year in France. The crushing blow was borne most bravely by both parents. Dr. Osler worked harder than ever, and seemed to be still cheerful; but his friends could see that his heart was broken. His own death was the result of exposure while returning from a professional consultation.

Revere Osler had gradually formed an interesting collection of English books, mainly of the Tudor and Stuart periods, to which his father had added most of the non-scientific works from his own fine library. Soon after their son's death his parents presented this whole collection to the Johns Hopkins University, with a suitable endowment to form a "Tudor and Stuart Club" (somewhat similar to the well-known Elizabethan Club at Yale), which will, under such circumstances, be very deeply appreciated, and will undoubtedly prove of the greatest value and interest to the students at that university—a cherished memorial to both father and son.[1]

Only a word can be said here on Dr. Osler as a bibliophile. He tells us himself: "Books have been my delight these thirty years, and from them I have received incalculable benefits. To study the phenomena of disease without books is to sail an uncharted sea, while to study books without patients is not to go to sea at

[1] Cf. *Johns Hopkins University Circulars*, 1919, February, p. 19, and December, pp. 17, 127.

all."[1] He knew well the monumental Index Catalogue of the Surgeon-General's Library and the *Index Medicus*, and used them constantly to great advantage, but the personal touch in Atkinson's *Medical Bibliography* (1834, A–B only) delighted him, and he calls it "the most fascinating book on the subject ever written."[2] His book of addresses, *Aequanimitas*, concludes with a wise and striking page headed "Bed-Side Library for Medical Students," naming ten books, including his own favorite, Sir Thomas Browne's *Religio Medici*. But he taught the love of books not by word only. Our "Resolutions" mention what might be called his "book clinics" for medical students. In Baltimore he formed also a small informal dining-club which he named "The Ship of Fools." It was so agreeable that, when he was leaving Baltimore for Oxford, the members presented him with a magnificent *Henriade* ("Londres, 1741"), inscribed by Voltaire to his *physician* Dr. de Silva[3]—surely a very fitting application by others of the principle on which Dr. Osler himself always so generously and unselfishly acted: "The true bibliophile has a keen pleasure in seeing an important document in its proper home."[4]

His own great library cannot be even vaguely described, but its general classification is indicated in

[1] "Books and Men," *Aequanimitas*, p. 220; *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, January 17, 1901.

[2] *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, July, 1913, p. 612.

[3] *Ibid.*, August, 1914, p. 732.

[4] *Ibid.*, September, 1912, p. 834.

the following quotation from a letter (dated August 6, 1918):

My library continues to grow and I am trying to get a proper Catalogue. . . . . If not on right, at any rate my scheme will be on interesting lines. I have divided the library into seven groups —Prima, Secunda, Historica, Biographica, Bibliographica, Incunabula and Manuscripts. Sayle, of the Cambridge Library, thinks it will be feasible, but, of course, in a published Catalogue there will have to be a very complete index.

His own favorite author was Sir Thomas Browne, who is the subject of a delightful bio-bibliographical study included in the fine volume entitled *An Alabama Student*, etc., 1908.

I must now close by calling attention to the fact that the authorized "Life" of Dr. Osler is being written by his friend, Dr. Harvey Cushing, the eminent surgeon now at Harvard,[1] who is most anxious to see any letters written by Dr. Osler, for use in this connection. Let each of us do what he can to make any kind of suitable material available for the biography, and do it soon.

Dr. Osler was a great bibliographer, a great physician, a very great personality. It has been well said that it was the "power of evoking the love of his fellow workers that most distinguished him."[2] That love made them better workers and better men. We who knew him can never forget our great debt to our much beloved friend.[3]

[1] His address is: Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Fenway, Boston, Mass.

[2] *London Times*, December 31, 1919, p. 13.

[3] The volumes entitled *Aequanimitas* and *An Alabama Student* have been incidentally mentioned above. *Science and Immortality*, 1904, is also very

Upon the motion of Mr. Mackall the Society adopted the following:

RESOLUTIONS ON THE DEATH OF SIR WILLIAM OSLER

The Members of the Bibliographical Society of America are anxious to record in no merely conventional or perfunctory words their appreciation of the great loss which all have suffered in the death on December 29 last, of Sir William Osler, Baronet, F.R.S., the universally beloved President of the Bibliographical Society (London), and Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford, Honorary Professor of Medicine at Johns Hopkins University.

Born at Bond Head, Ontario, July 12, 1849, he graduated at Trinity College, Toronto, took his M.D. at McGill University in 1872, became professor there and,

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interesting. Camac's *Counsels and Ideals, from the Writings of William Osler* 1905 (enlarged edition to appear in 1921), classifies many fine excerpts from scattered sources. Cushing's edition (Houghton Mifflin, 1920) of the address as president of the Classical Association, *The Old Humanities and the New Science*, reprints also the list of specimens of the "Bibliotheca Prima" and contains a very excellent introduction, etc. An elaborate list of Sir William's writings, 773 titles in all, is in the Osler number of the *Johns Hopkins Hospital Bulletin*. Several valuable articles on him are in the *Annals of Medical History*, Vol. II, No. 2. See also *British Medical Journal*, January 3 and 10, 1920; Allbutt in *Nature*, January 8; Garrison in *Science*, January 16; Thayer in *New York Nation*, January 24 (fuller in *Bull. Med. and Chir., Faculty of Md.*, January, 1920); Streeter's "Osler as a Bibliophile" (*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, April 1, 1920); D. S. Freeman's admirable editorial in the *Richmond News Leader*, December 30, 1919, quoted in large part in the *Literary Digest*, January 17, 1920. *The Bibliography of the Writings of Sir Wm. Osler*, by Minnie W. Blogg, "revised and enlarged with Index," has now been issued as a separate book (Balto, 1921).

in 1884, at the University of Pennsylvania, moved to Johns Hopkins in 1889 as its first professor of medicine, and went to Oxford in 1905. He was made a baronet in 1911.

As a great physician, a genius at diagnosis, an inspiring teacher, and the author of what is still the standard textbook on the practice of medicine in English (translated into French, German, Spanish, and Chinese), besides innumerable special studies, his fame is world-wide, and based on actual work done well.

He wished to be remembered chiefly as having taught medicine at the bedside of the patient.

Similarly he delighted in teaching bibliography and an intelligent love of books, informally but with rare knowledge, judgment, and grasp of the human and the historical elements.

He invited his students to his hospitable home, showed his most interesting books, and told them stories in connection with their authors and the history of the subject, so simply and yet so vividly that even the least interested of his many hearers became thrilled and never forgot the impression, or the chief facts. At the Johns Hopkins Hospital Historical Club and elsewhere he made many an old book and its author really live again. His various printed addresses and essays dealing with books and men are all singularly charming.

He was ever on the lookout for some interesting volume to give to that one of many friends (including libraries), who would best appreciate it. No one could

be more generous, no one ever proved himself a more thoughtful friend of bibliophiles—truly a philobibliophile par excellence.

His vast reading and learning, carried always so lightly and playfully, his sparkling wit, and delightfully refreshing humor, his kindly, lovable personality, his absolute simplicity and unselfishness, soon made him very dear to all with whom he came in contact.

His individual influence was indeed unique, but he recognized clearly the importance of organization, and he was a great organizer in much besides medicine. To him is largely due the success of the Medical Library Association, as well as of various medical libraries once weak but now strong. The large meeting room in the new library building of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland, in Baltimore, was gratefully and appropriately named after him, in 1909.

For seven years, until his death, he was President of the Bibliographical Society, of London, and its debt to him in many ways is very great indeed. He was a member of the famous Roxburghe Club. He was a Curator of the Bodleian Library; and the *Bodleian Quarterly Record* was started at his suggestion and with his support.

During the war no one worked harder than Dr. Osler (though he was nearing seventy when the conflict began), in striving to prevent and cure disease, and to relieve suffering. In the hospitals he visited friend and foe alike. He made unusual efforts to see sick and

wounded Americans personally, and to reassure their families.

Dr. Osler's elaborate monograph on "Early Printed Medical Books to 1480," already "half-written" in February, 1916, was still unfinished at his death. It will be published by the Bibliographical Society, for which it was intended.[1]

For years he had been working on what would have been his bibliographical *magnum opus*—a unique and most interesting and valuable elaborate catalogue, with historical and biographical essays and notes, of his wonderfully rich, historically arranged, scientific and medical library. The suggestive leaflet listing twenty great scientific books before 1700 which he exhibited to the Classical Association at Oxford, May, 1919 (when he was its president), and the brilliant account of the "First Printed Documents Relating to Modern Surgical Anaesthesia," read before the Royal Society of Medicine, just a year earlier,[2] indicate what that great catalogue would have been. Our loss is great, but we have much to be thankful for. The catalogue will be completed as far as possible, and all the books were bequeathed to

[1] Cf. *Transactions of the Bibliographical Society*, XIII, 4, and XIV, 138; also *British Medical Journal*, January 24, 1914; also *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*, April, 1914.

[2] The leaflet was reprinted in *Annals of Medical History*, Vol. II, No. 2, and in Cushing's edition (Houghton Mifflin, 1920) of the Classical Association address *The Old Humanities and the New Science*. The "Anaesthesia" paper was printed in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Medicine*, Section of the History of Medicine, June, 1918, and then in *Annals of Medical History*, New York, Vol. I, No. 4.

McGill University, Montreal, where they will always remain as the most fitting monument to one of the greatest and most learned of bibliophiles.

Dr. Osler asked to be written down as one who loved his fellow-men. He seemed especially fond of bibliophiles, and we feel his loss most deeply.

As Americans we are sincerely grateful for the twenty-one full years of his life which he devoted to us.

Resolved that copies of this Minute, as an expression of our cordial sympathy, be sent to:

Lady Osler
The Bibliographical Society (London)
Oxford University
Johns Hopkins University
McGill University

JOHN BOYD THACHER

BY EDITH BRINKMANN

IN the early correspondence concerning the collection of material toward the *Census of Fifteenth Century Books Owned in America*, the name of John Boyd Thacher appears frequently as the possessor of the largest collection of these volumes in the country. A natural curiosity to see the collection was aroused, and the opportunity provided through a card of introduction to Mr. Thacher from Dr. John Thomson of the Free Library of Philadelphia. The first of the two interviews, recollections of which are here noted, followed. A cordial welcome to 5 South Hawk Street, a familiar address in the correspondence mentioned above, was received on presenting Dr. Thomson's card. The biographers of Mr. Thacher have spoken of his sincerity, simplicity, and charm of manner—it would be difficult to present this side of his character adequately. After the lapse of fourteen years it remains a clear and vivid memory. Knowing now the number and variety of his interests and the many demands on his leisure, the gift of several hours of time to a casual visitor appears in its full value as an act of characteristic generosity.

On this occasion Mr. Thacher showed some choice specimens of his large collection of incunabula. He explained that these were scattered, some volumes being at his house in Albany, some at his country residence,

and some in storage. The collection, gathered to exhibit the work of fifteenth-century printers rather than editions of particular authors, at that time contained examples from more than five hundred presses and numbered over eight hundred volumes. Mr. Thacher explained in half-humorous manner that his method of collecting was perhaps not discriminating, as he ordered incunabula in lots when these were offered by booksellers, in the hope of obtaining some specimens of presses hitherto unrepresented in his collection among the volumes thus purchased.

This naturally led to the possession of duplicates, but it also furnished such opportunities as that of showing two copies of an early Venetian issue (it would be easy to say a Joannes de Spira or a Jenson, but truth compels the admission of having forgotten the title and imprint of this particular volume); in one of these the last page was genuine, in the other copy, a clever forgery. Mr. Thacher explained the way to detect the differences, which to the less practiced eye of his visitor were indistinguishable.

In addition to showing the choicest of his incunabula at hand, Mr. Thacher spoke at some length of his brochure on *Awards at the Columbian Exposition.* He had served as a commissioner from the state of New York and as a member of the Executive Committee on Awards. In the latter office he followed carefully the rules laid down as a basis for the award of medals, that these should be granted solely upon excellence, and that each medal

should be accompanied by a certificate setting forth the exact merits upon which the award had been made. This was directly contrary to the method of awards followed in continental expositions, where the much coveted gold medal was the prize of the strongest, and sometimes the most unscrupulous, competitor. The attempt of Mr. Thacher faithfully to adhere to the rule for awards adopted by Congress and known to the exhibitors, both foreign and domestic, months before the Columbian Exposition opened, brought upon him attack after attack from exhibitors, press, and people, and several groups of the first-named, both foreign and American, withdrew from competition. In his own words,

> One prominent journal placed at the head of its editorial column in blazing type the sentence
>
> "VIVISECTION HAS NO TERRORS FOR JOHN BOYD THACHER"
>
> . . . . Personally and privately the reporters treated me courteously and kindly, but over and over again they assured me that their orders were to mercilessly write me down.

The story is told by Mr. Thacher in this slender volume, which he said he had published at his own expense to set forth exactly his position in the matter and his justification therefor.

To insure preservation of this record of his vindication from the many false charges made against him, he had twenty-five copies bound, each by one of the best modern binders, and presented these to a selected number of the largest libraries throughout the country. He stated

that he knew the book would never be preserved for its contents, but that it would be for the binding. The copy before me in the Library of Congress is catalogued as "One of seven copies. This copy bound by the Guild of Women Binders, London." The binding is full crushed morocco of a gray-green color, corners of a deeper green, and design of crimson roses with gold tooling; doublures with border of gray-green morocco with gold tooling, surrounding a panel of vellum with a decoration of oak leaves in russet and gold.

Memory is accurate on the point that Mr. Thacher said he had twenty-five, not seven, copies bound. He also stated that at that time there was no copy in Philadelphia and asked to which library a copy should be sent. Frankness bade me say that the Library Company of Philadelphia or the Library of the University of Pennsylvania had prior claims by virtue of age and size of collections, but loyalty could recommend no other beneficiary than the Free Library of Philadelphia. It was a matter of gratification to learn some weeks later that Mr. Thacher had sent a copy of his *Awards* to Dr. Thomson for that library.

A third matter on which Mr. Thacher was then engaged and of which he spoke with great enthusiasm was his plan for writing a history of the French Revolution from the standpoint of the personality of the chief actors therein as revealed by their autographs. Among his many interesting possessions was a remarkable collection of autographs of this period, some idea of the

extent of which may be had from glancing over a pamphlet, "*Outlines of the French Revolution as told in Autographs* (collected from a private collection). Exhibited at the Lenox Branch of the New York Public Library March 20, 1905." The preface states:

> The present exhibition of autographs is an attempt to teach the outlines of history, and particularly of the French Revolution, by means of holographic illustration. The writing of a man, it is held, is the most perfect relic he leaves behind him. Something physical, as well as intellectual and moral, belonging to his personality, has gone into the material substance carrying his writing.

The exhibition contained autograph letters or documents of 502 persons connected with the French Revolution, beginning with "those characters . . . . whose intellectual processes taught the people of France to think for themselves." The names range from Montesquieu and Voltaire to Napoleon I.

The second interview with Mr. Thacher occurred about eighteen months later. He had finally consented to permit the titles of his incunabula to be included in the proposed *Census of Incunabula*, and the occasion of this visit was to state to Mr. Thacher just what data were desired for this *Census*. With Mr. Wyer and Mr. Arne Kildal (then a student at the New York State Library School, who listed Mr. Thacher's titles for the *Census*), another pleasant hour was spent with Mr. Thacher, renewing and confirming the first impression of one of the most charming, gracious, and unaffected men it has been the writer's privilege to meet.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA, HELD AT ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY, MAY 1, 1920

The Annual Meeting for the year 1920 was held on May 1, at the Hotel Chelsea, Atlantic City, New Jersey. The President, Dr. George Watson Cole, was in the chair, and presented as his presidential address the paper on "Bibliography—A Forecast" which appears on a preceding page.

Mr. Seymour de Ricci submitted the following suggestions, which were read in his absence by Mr. Keogh:

The subject which I venture to bring before you is a practical one, and my purpose is rather to stimulate discussion and so ascertain your feelings than to actually make any concrete proposals.

There are in this country and in Europe a certain number of learned societies, clubs, endowments, etc., which are in the habit of publishing, at more or less regular intervals, bibliographical or literary monographs for distribution to their members and supporters.

Such volumes are among the most welcome tools of the librarian, bibliographer, and student.

The present prohibitive costs both of printing and paper make the publication of such volumes a most difficult matter.

Could we not contemplate occasionally *pooling* our resources and bringing out such works in co-operation, thus sharing the burden of the costs and producing the volumes at a *possible* price?

Is there any reason that a book club in California and a learned society in Massachusetts should not simultaneously issue to their members a bibliography, say of "Edgar Poe," with no other differences between the copies than possibly the binding or an additional imprint on the title-page?

The only sufferers would be the two or three enthusiasts who are generous enough to subscribe to *both* of these clubs; are they so numerous

that they would resign rather than occasionally receive two copies of a book?

To put the proposal on a concrete ground, I may state that the Bibliographical Society (of London) will always be willing to consider any proposal for a joint-account printing of a work of general interest.

Co-operation between the workers and subscribers of the various clubs and societies seems to me highly desirable and I sincerely wish that it could be put on a practical basis. What do you think about it?

Mr. Leonard L. Mackall spoke on the work of Sir William Osler as a book collector and a bibliographer, and presented the Resolutions printed on a preceding page.

A paper "On a Proposed List of Printers—1454–1800," by Worthington Chauncey Ford, was read by title. In the discussion that followed, Mr. Winship described the material for such a list which had been accumulated at the John Carter Brown Library in Providence.

Mr. Augustus H. Shearer presented some "Bibliographical Notes on *Le Courier d'Amérique*," describing the efforts he had made to secure data for a consecutive series of the issues of this Philadelphia paper.[1]

Miss Edith Brinckmann, who was the actual compiler of a large part of the material used in editing the *Census of Fifteenth Century Books Owned in America*, submitted an account of her acquaintance with the late Hon. John Boyd Thacher, of Albany, which is printed in this issue.

Mr. G. P. Winship reported on the publication of the *Census*.

The Treasurer read his report, which is printed below.

The officers, whose names appear on page iii of this issue, were named by the Nominating Committee, George S. Godard, chairman, Victor H. Paltsits, and J. C. M. Hanson, and duly elected.

AUGUSTUS H. SHEARER, *Secretary*

[1] Dr. Shearer's paper is reserved for publication in a proposed issue of the Society's *Papers* which will be devoted to eighteenth-century newspapers printed in America in French.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

This report covers from July 1, 1919, up to which date the last report was made, as printed in *Papers*, Vol. XIII, Part II.

There are now (April 30, 1920) 193 members, of which number 13 are new since last report. There are also 7 life-members, and 1 honorary member.

During the past year we have lost by death 1 life-member, Mr. George D. Smith, and 5 regular members, Messrs. C. H. Gould, Benno Loewy, Thomas M. Owen, E. O. S. Scholefield, and Mrs. M. H. Wilmarth. One member has resigned, Mr. J. G. Pyle, of St. Paul.

The membership now comprises 84 institutions and 109 individuals. We have 4 members from Great Britain, and 1 each from Holland, Switzerland, Bavaria, South Australia, and Germany. One of our life-members resides in France, and our honorary member is from Chile.

Up to April 30, 1920, we have received the annual dues from all but 26 of our members.

I append Treasurer's report for July–December, 1919, and January–April, 1920, with the recommendation that we print only the six months to December, 1919, and in future make report to cover the calendar year.

Receipts

July–December, 1919

Balance on hand July 1, 1919	$663.36	
Membership dues, 1918 (2)	6.00	
Membership dues, 1919 (10)	30.00	
Membership dues, 1920 (1)	3.00	
Interest on deposit	8.90	
University of Chicago Press:		
Sales to June 30, 1919	38.92	
Sales August, 1919	6.00	
Received from "A Friend" toward cost of *Papers*	250.00	
Back files sold by Treasurer	13.50	
		$1,019.68

EXPENDITURES

July–December, 1919

University of Chicago Press, Postage	$ 1.21	
Portrait of Daniel Webster	15.00	
University of Chicago Press:		
Papers, Vol. XIII, No. 1 (400 copies)	429.67	
Addressing and mailing same	19.09	
	$ 464.97	
Balance on hand, December 31, 1919 (State Street Trust Co., Boston)		$554.71

NOTE.—The cost of *Papers*, Vol. XIII, No. 2, 1919, and mailing of same, $391.48, though paid in 1920, is really chargeable against the receipts of 1919, and subtracting this from cash on hand December 31, 1919, leaves a true balance of $163.23 to carry over to 1920.

LIFE-MEMBERSHIP FUND

Principal

(For use only on Publications, not on regular *Papers*)

Balance on hand, June 30, 1919 (Brookline, Mass., Savings Bank)	$368.52	
No receipts—no expenditures		
Balance on hand, December 31, 1919		$368.52

Interest

(Applicable to regular expenses of Society)

Balance on hand, June 30, 1919	67.74	
Interest to December 31, 1919	8.72	
Balance on hand, December 31, 1919		76.46
Total		$444.98

Respectfully submitted,

FREDERICK W. FAXON, *Treasurer*

NOTES OF BOOKS AND WORKERS

A Study in Evolution.—The printed output of Dr. Osler's half-century of productive work, as set forth in brief bibliographic record, makes an imposing total which few can ever have equaled. Whether one considers merely its bulk or more properly its contemporary influence and its promise of lasting importance, the record is impressive. Miss M. W. Blogg, the librarian of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, compiled in 1919 a list of Dr. Osler's written work for the Osler number of *The Johns Hopkins Hospital Bulletin* which gave 730 titles. This number was increased to 1,195 for the separate reprint of the list issued in 1921. It affords a striking summary of the evolution of Sir William Osler.

The record begins two years before he took his medical degree, with a contribution to the *Canadian Naturalist*, which was followed with the usual literary offerings of those who expect soon to be looking for a place to work. The instinct for getting into print was evident, however, in 1874, when he sent home a series of "Letters from Berlin" to be printed in the *Canada Medical Journal*. Two years later he first showed the tendency to break away from strictly technical subjects, in a letter to the Canadian *Lancet* on the lack of professional *esprit de corps*. Miss Blogg lists 14 titles for this year, 19 for 1877, and 66 for 1878. He went this number one better in 1880, raised the count to 70 in 1886, and in 1887 to 81. By this time the routine reports on unusual clinical observations and book reviews began to be varied by occasional editorials on "Doctor's Signs" and "The Brains of Criminals," by addresses to local medical societies, and more formal professional lectures in New York and London.

The only catalogue that appears in the list of Dr. Osler's interests up to this time is one of "Morbid Anatomical Specimens," but the obituary notes on foreign practitioners suggest that he

was already keenly alive to the historical and the international aspects of medicine. In the early nineties he came to be the speaker most desired at American medical-school graduations and at professional gatherings of every sort, and he evidently devoted increasing care to the preparation of these occasional talks as he realized the influence he was exerting through personal contact. The subjects came to range farther and farther afield, from John Keats, the apothecary-poet, to Thomas Dover, physician and buccaneer, from "A Rhode Island Philosopher" to "John Locke as a Physician." His library was already large in number of volumes, but it is more than probable that the first title in the bibliography which is directly associated with old books, "A Visit to the Hunterian Library at Glasgow," in 1902, marks an important point in the development of his deeper interests. Three years later he said farewell to his students and colleagues in America, and made an address in London on Sir Thomas Browne; the same year he attended the famous Osler Dinner and wrote on the liver and bile ducts. Professional claims and the habit of writing maintained their hold to the end, but such subjects as *Religio Medici*, John Radcliffe, Thomas Linacre, Michael Servetus, crop out with increasing frequency, until in 1912 he is fairly committed to "Men and Books" in a series of contributions to his earlier associates of the *Canadian Medical Association Journal*. When the War Dragon caught him in one of the expiring swishings of its tail, he was the leader among English-speaking exponents of *The Old Humanities and the New Science*. G. P. W.

Applied Bibliography.—The genealogy of the printed editions of the *Genealogia deorum* of Boccaccio is set forth very neatly by Ernest H. Wilkins, of the University of Chicago, in *Modern Philology* for December, 1919. He establishes, by combining the bibliographical and the literary evidence, the parentage of the successive editions from 1472 to 1532, as well as the progressive loss of strength due to the failure of the editors to introduce any new strain from the manuscript copies.

A New Cat Bibliography.—Carl Van Vechten's *The Tiger in the House*, New York, 1920, contains the first real bibliography of books on cats. Babington's brief list of cat books was described in an earlier issue of these *Papers*. Van Vechten devotes 48 pages to the bibliography which he subdivides into 20 classes as follows: Bibliography; General; Varieties, Breeding, Care, and Diseases; Natural History; Anatomy and Biology; Psychology; Language; Humanitarian; Cats and Birds; Law; Folklore and Religion; Fiction; Essays; Theatre; Music; Art; Anthologies; Poetry; Miscellaneous; and Unclassified. He lists magazine articles as well as separate publications and also many books in which the cat plays but a minor part. In this manner the bibliography is enlarged into an index of cats in literature. This, of course, makes the list of more value to the general student. He states that the bibliography is not complete, but only a preliminary list, which he suggests may sometime be enlarged and reprinted. We certainly hope that he will do this, printing the bibliography as a separate book rather than in with other material. Similar bibliographies of dogs, horses, etc., would make a most useful series.

H. M. C.

An Ideal Book Review.—Dr. Alexander Marks, in the *Jewish Quarterly Review*, printed a review of E. N. Adler's *Gazetteer of Hebrew Printing* which is essentially a supplement to that comprehensive work. With Mr. Adler's assistance, he is able to fill nearly ten pages with condensed corrections or, more often, additional data. Adler listed 547 localities in which Hebrew type has been used; Dr. Marx raises the total to 626.